

Message Text

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21
ORIGIN EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OES-03 COME-00 SMI-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01 NSF-01

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DRAFTED BY EA/PRCM:PGSMITH:EB
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----- 046264

R 252251Z FEB 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USLO PEKING
INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
CINCPAC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SWEL, PINT, CH

SUBJECT: LIAONING EARTHQUAKE

REF: PEKING 0290
CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. QUICK SURVEY OF US SEISMOLOGICAL DELEGATION INDICATES
NO NEWS YET FROM COLLEAGUES IN PRC CONCERNING LIAONING
EARTHQUAKE. DR. FRANK PRESS, DELEGATION HEAD, INTENDS TO
WRITE TO DR. DING GUO-YU OF NATIONAL SEISMOLOGICAL BUREAU,
ASKING FOR DETAILS ON QUAKE AND ESPECIALLY TECHNIQUES USED
IN PREDICTION. WE ARE SOMEWHAT DOUBTFUL THAT PRESS OR ANY-
ONE ELSE WILL GET A VERY FORTHCOMING REPLY, BUT WILL PASS
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ON ANYTHING LEARNED.

2. IN THE MEANTIME, DELEGATION MEMBERS BELIEVE THAT PEKING IS PERHAPS THE BEST INSTRUMENTED AREA OF THE COUNTRY FOR PREDICTION PURPOSES. A RING OF 17 STANDARD SEISMOLOGICAL STATIONS SURROUNDS THE CITY AND IT HAS AN UNDERSTANDABLY HIGH PRIORITY IN PREDICTION WORK. WE ARE REASONABLY CONFIDENT, THEN, THAT IF AND WHEN THE CHINESE ARE ABLE TO REFINE ANY QUAKE PREDICTION FOR PEKING SUFFICIENTLY TO BE USEFUL, RESIDENTS WILL BE GIVEN CLEAR AND UNAMBIGUOUS WARNING.

3. FOR WHAT IT IS WORTH, MEMBERS OF THE SEISMOLOGICAL DELEGATION WERE TOLD IN HARBIN THAT OF ALL BUILT-UP AREAS OF CHINA, PEKING HAS HAD MOST ATTENTION PAID TO EARTHQUAKE RESISTANCE IN BUILDING DESIGN. FORMAL PEKING-TIENTSIN REGIONAL SEISMIC BUILDING CODE WAS REPORTEDLY PROMULGATED IN 1969, AND CHINESE SCIENTISTS IN HARBIN CLAIMED THAT STRUCTURES BUILT SINCE THEN IN THAT AREA HAD BEEN CONSTRUCTED WITH CONSIDERABLE MARGIN OF SAFETY. OLDER STRUCTURES HAD BEEN EXAMINED WITH THE NEW CRITERIA IN MIND, THEY SAID, AND STRENGTHENED WHERE NECESSARY. KISSINGER

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